(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government has formulated proposal for launching a National Horticulture Mission during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Meeting with the State Agriculture Ministers has been scheduled for 21st December, 2004 at New Delhi.

Assistance to M.P. for production of Oilseeds and Pulses

†1601. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal for grant of Rs. 145.74 crores for increasing production of oilseeds and pulses in Bhundelkhand region with the help of GICA;

(b) whether the Central Government are considering the said proposal; and

(c) if so, by when the expected budget and sanction will be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh had sent the project concept document on "Maximizing Oilseed and Pulse Production in Bundelkhand Region in the State of Madhya Pradesh". The project was examined. The State Government has been requested to submit a revised project proposal in the format prescribed for Japanese assistance and duly addressing the comments of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. The revised proposal from the State Government has not yet been received.

Setting up of Coconut Research Institute in Karnataka

1602. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka is a major producer of coconuts in the country;

(b) whether any proposal from the State is pending with the Centre for setting up a Coconut Research Institute there; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the proposal has undergone examination of the ICAR and if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Karnataka is one of the major producer of coconut, after Kerala, Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable.

Reports of National Commission on Farmers

1603. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) by when the National Commission on Farmers, which has been constituted to improve the conditions of farmers in the country, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Swaminathan, is going to submit its report;

(b) whether any interim report has been submitted by the Commission;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the priority areas that the Commission is asked to look into?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The Commission is required to submit its final report within two years of its constitutions. No interim report has been submitted as yet. The terms of reference for the Commission are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The terms of reference for the Commission are as under:-

* Work out a comprehensive medium-term strategy for food and nutrition security in the country in order to move towards the goal of universal food security, over time.

* Propose methods of enhancing the productivity, profitability, stability and sustainability of the major farming systems of the country, based on an agro-ecological and agro-climatic approach and the harnessing of frontier technologies.